

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2015

St. Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod

St Petersburg and the Russian North

ST PETERSBURG – PSKOV – NOVGOROD

+ PRE-TOUR TO ARCHANGEL AND THE SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS
+ POST-CRUISE TO MOSCOW

with Rosamund Bartlett
05 – 16 August 2015 (12 days)



R
Renaissance
Tours

St Petersburg and the Russian North

ST PETERSBURG – PSKOV – NOVGOROD



TOUR LEADER

Dr Rosamund Bartlett is a well-known writer and scholar based in Oxford. She has lectured on Russian and European cultural history at universities, museums, and public institutions around the world, and is visiting lecturer at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The author of many books, including *Wagner and Russia*, *Chekhov: Scenes from a Life* and *Tolstoy: A Russian Life*, her new translation of *Anna Karenina* was published by Oxford World's Classics in August 2014.

Discover one thousand years of Russian history and culture in and around the magnificent city of St Petersburg. Explore the outstanding art museums, palaces and monuments of the former Tsarist capital and discover the lives and works of the great Russian artists, musicians and writers. Journey back in time to the ancient Russian towns of Pskov and Novgorod, including a visit to Pushkin's family estate and grave at Mikhailovskoye and Dostoyevsky's summer house at Staraya Russa.

Before the tour, visit the Far North of Russia including the historic city of Archangel and the fascinating, remote Solovetsky Islands, whose fifteenth century monastery has remained one of the great centres of Russian spirituality. Following the tour, enjoy a relaxing cruise to Moscow.

At a glance

- Explore the outstanding art museums, palaces and monuments of St Petersburg
- Discover the lives and works of the great Russian writers, artists, musicians and poets
- Visit Pushkin's family estate and grave at Mikhailovskoye
- Optional pre-tour to Archangel and the Solovetsky Islands
- Optional cruise to Moscow on the exclusive 'Volga Dream' (limited cabins available)



Pre-tour: Archangel and the Solovetsky Islands

with Rosamund Bartlett | 31 July – 05 August 2015

This optional pre-tour will take you to the far north of Russia. Whilst Archangel is a historically interesting city with something of a 'frontier spirit' about it, the highlight will definitely be the three days spent on the remote Solovetsky Islands, famous for the ancient Solovetsky Monastery, once one of the richest and most powerful fortified monasteries in Imperial Russia but also the site of the first Soviet prison camp ('gulag'). The islands offer a fascinating but brutal history, simple but spectacular scenery and a quiet, contemplative solemnity.

Thu 30 Jul 2015

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas / Emirates flights to St Petersburg via Dubai.

Fri 31 Jul

Arrive St Petersburg

Afternoon arrival at St Petersburg and overnight at the Crowne Plaza St Petersburg Airport hotel. This evening, join Rosamund Bartlett and fellow travellers for dinner in the hotel. **D**

Sat 01 Aug

St Petersburg – Archangel

Transfer to St Petersburg Airport for a morning flight to Archangel (1 hr 30 min).

Extending for 13 km along the Northern Dvina River, 50 km from the White Sea, Archangel dates back to 1583 when it was established by Ivan the Terrible to become Russia's first major commercial port. Archangel reached the height of its prosperity in the 17th century but subsequently declined with the founding of St. Petersburg (1703). Dominated today by large-scale timber-processing industries, shipbuilding and repair, Archangel is frequently called the 'Gateway to the Arctic'.

After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a tour of the city finishing with a visit to the Merchants' Yard Museum Complex. This network of fortified depots was built by a team of German and Dutch masons between 1668 and 1684, at the time when Archangel handled more than half of the country's exports. This historic building today houses the Regional Museum.

Late afternoon arrival at your hotel for dinner and overnight. **B L D**

Sun 02 Aug

Archangel – Solovetsky

Following a talk and checkout from the hotel, visit the 19th century manor of the famous merchant Ekaterina Kirillovna Plotnikova which houses a fine collection of Russian art from the 16th until the 19th century.

Transfer to Archangel Airport for an early afternoon flight (50 min) to the town of Solovetsky, located on Big Solovetsky Island, the largest of the six Solovetsky Islands, an archipelago in the Onega Bay of the White Sea. Almost all of the population of the islands (less than 1,000) lives in Solovetsky which is home to the Solovetsky Monastery founded in the second quarter of the 15th century. After the October Revolution, the islands attained notoriety as the site of the first Soviet prison camp (gulag).

Begin your exploration of Solovetsky with a walking tour of the town, including a visit to the Gulag History Museum. Finish the afternoon with a church service at the Solovetsky Monastery. **B D**

Mon 03 Aug

Solovetsky

This morning travel to Sekirnaya Hill situated in the north-western part of Big Solovetsky Island. On the top of this high hill, in the 19th century, monks built the Church of Ascension, which was also a lighthouse. In the Gulag times, one of the cruellest punishment cells was located in this church.

On the return, visit the Solovetsky Botanical Garden where more than 100 plant species can be found, including those that usually grow far to the south.



Solovetsky Monastery

In the afternoon, take a walking tour of the Solovetsky Monastery complex which houses the Uspensky Cathedral (built in 1552–1557), Preobrazhensky Cathedral (1556–1564), Church of Annunciation (1596–1601), stone chambers (1615), a watermill (early 17th century), bell tower (1777), Church of Nicholas (1834) and numerous household buildings and living quarters. Today, the Solovetsky Monastery is both a historical and architectural museum as well as living Russian Orthodox monastery with a small community of monks. The monastery has recently been extensively repaired, but remains under reconstruction. **B L D**

Tue 04 Aug Solovetsky – Archangel – St Petersburg

Subject to calm weather conditions, this morning you will take a motor boat trip to Bolshoi Zayatsky Island. Just 1.35 kilometres square Bolshoi Zayatsky is noted for its remarkable Neolithic remains, which include barrows, ancient pagan sanctuaries and stone labyrinths from the first and second centuries BC. Also see the Church of St Andrew Pervozvanny, originally built in the mid-1500s but rebuilt in 1702.

Return to Big Solovetsky Island for lunch.

After lunch, transfer to the airport for a short flight to Archangel (50 min), connecting with a late afternoon flight (1 hr 30 min) to St Petersburg. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. **B L**

Wed 05 Aug St Petersburg

Today is at leisure, before joining the tour 'St Petersburg and the Russian North' in the evening. **B**



Interior of the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg, Russia



Uspensky Cathedral © Alexandre Duret-Lutz via flickr.com/photos/gadl

Estimated Tour Prices

Per person, twin-share	AUD 3,750
Single supplement*	AUD 750
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	06 June 2015

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AGI510A

Limited numbers

This tour is a small group tour and is limited to 14 passengers.

Fitness level Above average

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation with daily breakfast (**B**)
- Meals as per itinerary (**L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner)
- Return economy airfares with Nordavia, St Petersburg – Archangel – Solovetsky
- Transfers if travelling on group flights
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Russian visa
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

Tour price does not include

- Transfers if not travelling on group flights
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, mini-bar etc.
- Drinks with meals
- Airport and hotel portage
- Travel insurance

Your hotels

St Petersburg – Crowne Plaza St Petersburg Airport

Archangel – Pur-Navolok Hotel★★★★

Solovetsky – Solovki Cottage★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Important

Given the basic infrastructure on the Solovetsky Islands this tour is akin to undertaking an off-road 4WD Outback Australian adventure. Intending tour members must be physically fit and prepared for simple accommodation, rough roads, basic means of transportation, minimal facilities (no shops, no ATMs, no internet etc.) and the prevalence of mosquitoes.

Whilst tourism to the Solovetsky Islands is gradually increasing, air services (operated by regional Russian airline Nordavia) are seasonal, limited and announced not more than three months in advance. Therefore the final itinerary and pricing for this tour are tentative only and will be subject to final confirmation in May 2015.

Because of the limited facilities, this tour is strictly limited to not more than 14 persons. If you have any questions or doubts about your ability to undertake this tour, please contact Hugh Hallard at Renaissance Tours who has recently visited the Solovetsky islands.

St Petersburg and the Russian North

with Rosamund Bartlett | 04 – 16 August 2015

Tue 04 August 2015

Depart Australia

Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas / Emirates flights to St Petersburg via Dubai.

Wed 05 Aug

Arrive St Petersburg

Afternoon arrival in St Petersburg and transfer to your hotel superbly located in the historic centre, within walking distance of many important points of interest, including the Hermitage Museum.

Tonight join Rosamund Bartlett and fellow travellers for a welcome briefing and cocktails. **C**

Thu 06 Aug

St Petersburg

Enjoy a full day introduction to this magnificent city, first planned by Peter the Great and later embellished by the Tsars as a great European capital.

Begin with a visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress built by Peter the Great in 1703 to defend Russia from Swedish attack. Visit the impressive Peter and Paul Cathedral, the burial place of all the Russian Emperors and Empresses from Peter the Great to Nicholas II. Continue to Smolny Cathedral, a fine example of Baroque architecture by the Italian architect Rastrelli (also responsible for the Winter Palace and Catherine's Palace).

After lunch, visit the Church of Our Saviour on the Spilled Blood (Resurrection of Christ Church), erected between 1883 and 1907 on the site where Emperor Alexander II was assassinated in 1881. Built in the flamboyant Russian Revival style, both the interior and exterior of the church are richly decorated with colourful mosaics, designed and created by the most prominent Russian artists of the day. **B L**

Fri 07 Aug

St Petersburg

Following a morning lecture, visit the Russian Museum, housed in the Mikhailovsky Palace, built between 1819 and 1825 for Grand Duke Mikhail, the brother of Alexander I and Nicholas I. Established in 1895 under the decree of the Emperor Nicholas II and opened in 1898, the Russian Museum is today the world's largest collection of Russian fine arts from the 10th to the 20th centuries, a famous

restoration centre and one of Russia's major cultural, educational and research centres.

After lunch, further your knowledge of Russia's great writers with visits to the fascinating house-museums of Anna Akhmatova and Dostoyevsky.

Tonight, subject to programs announced approx. 2–3 months prior, attend an opera, ballet or concert. **B L**

Sat 08 Aug

St Petersburg

Drive to the town of Pushkin, formerly known as 'Tsar's Village' (Tsarkoye Selo), renowned for its remarkable ensemble of palaces and parks. It is particularly famous for its impressive Baroque Catherine Palace, where Empress Catherine the Great lived and died.

Pass by the nearby Aleksandrovsky Palace, the favoured home of the last Tsar, Nicholas II (not open to the public). It was from here that the whole Imperial family left in 1917 to travel to Yekaterinburg, where they were brutally murdered by revolutionaries.

After lunch at a traditional Russian restaurant, continue to the nearby neo-classical Pavlovsk Palace. The residence of Emperor Paul I, the son of Catherine the Great. Designed by the Scotsman Charles Cameron, the estate's magnificent palace sits on a hill overlooking an English-style landscaped park, with a beautiful river running through it. **B L**

Sun 09 Aug

St Petersburg

Drive out of St Petersburg to the seaside town of Repino on the Gulf of Finland. Begin with a visit to Penaty Estate Museum of Ilya Repin, home of the great 19th century naturalist painter for 30 years. It contains 600 of his works, as well as ancient film reel of the artist.

After lunch at a local restaurant, drive past the dachas ('country houses') of the Soviet composer Dmitry Shostakovich and compatriot Anna Akhmatova. Finish with a visit to Komarovo Cemetery, to pay homage to the final resting place of Akhmatova. **B L**



Griboedon Canal and the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood



Carriage near the Hermitage, St Petersburg

Mon 10 Aug

St Petersburg

Journey once again out of St Petersburg, to Peterhof with commanding views over the Gulf of Finland. Inspired by Versailles, this series of palaces and gardens was laid out on the orders of Peter the Great and completed by his daughter, the Empress Elizabeth. Visit the Grand Palace with its numerous gardens, the summer palace Monplaisir, the Royal baths and kitchens which detail everyday life of the Imperial family. **B L**

Tue 11 Aug

St Petersburg

Following a morning lecture, visit the world famous Hermitage museum. Located in the former Winter Palace, the official residence of the Tsars, and the Small and Large Hermitages, the museum houses the vast collection of artworks built up by the Tsars, along with the collections of several former leading aristocratic families.

Following the morning guided tour, the rest of the day is free to further explore the Hermitage Museum at your leisure. **B L**

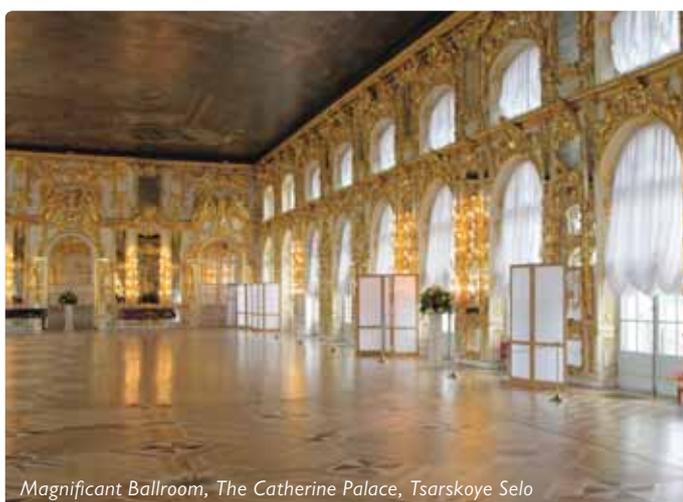
Wed 12 Aug

St Petersburg – Pskov

Depart St Petersburg for a four-day journey to the south of the city, beginning with a morning drive to the ancient city of Pskov (300 km).

Pskov is renowned for its well preserved medieval walls dating from the 13th century onwards. The walls enclose the Pskov Kremlin ('citadel') and the Trinity Cathedral, founded in 1138 and rebuilt in the 1690s. Other ancient cathedrals adorn the Mirozhsky Monastery (completed by 1152), famous for its 12th-century frescoes, St. John's (completed by 1243), and the Snetogorsky monastery (built in 1310 and stucco-painted in 1313). Pskov is exceedingly rich in tiny, squat, picturesque churches, dating mainly from the 15th and the 16th centuries. The 17th-century residential architecture comprises mainly merchants' mansions, such as the Salt House, the Pogankin Palace, and the Trubinsky mansion.

Late afternoon arrival at your hotel. **B L D**



Magnificent Ballroom, The Catherine Palace, Tsarskoye Selo

Thu 13 Aug

Pskov

Enjoy a full day trip to Mikhailovskoye (120 km away), a museum complex dedicated to the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, considered to be the founder of modern literary Russian language. The museum complex comprises a number of sites including Mikhailovskoye, where Pushkin had a family estate; Trigorskoye, the former estate of Praskovya Osipova, a close friend of Pushkin and Svyatogorsky Monastery where Pushkin is buried. **B L D**

Fri 14 Aug

Pskov – Staraya Russa – Novgorod

Depart Pskov for a full day's drive to Novgorod.

On the way, stop in the small, old, provincial city of Staraya Russa, picturesquely situated on the Polist River. The city has long been famous for its mineral springs, which have attracted a diverse population from Moscow and Petersburg.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Dostoyevsky Museum located in the house which the great writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky bought in 1870 as the family's summer home and where the novelist wrote his novels *The Brothers Karamazov* and *Demons*.

Continue to Novgorod, arriving in the late afternoon. **B L D**

Sat 15 Aug

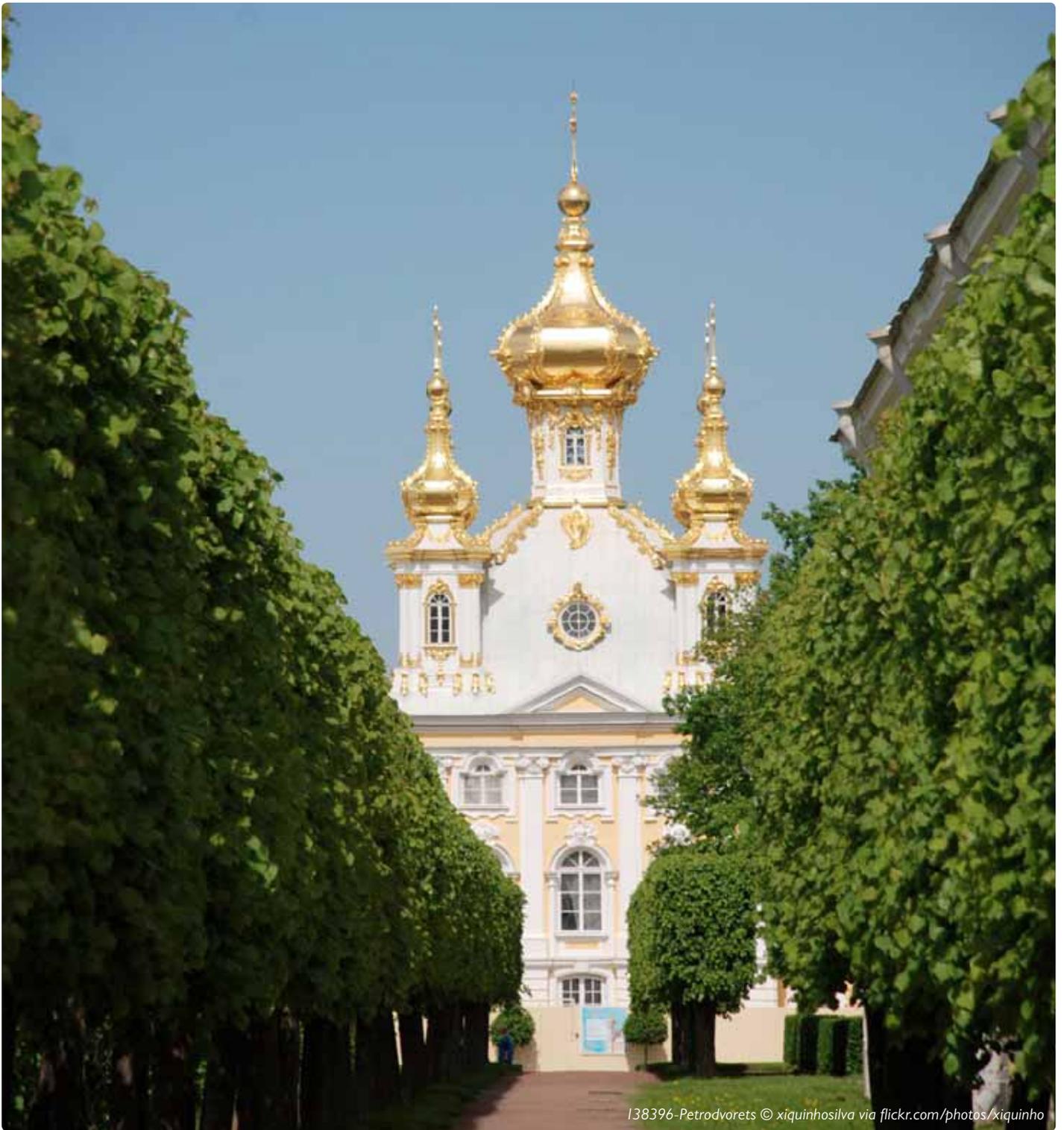
Novgorod

Situated on the ancient trade route between Central Asia and northern Europe, Novgorod is among the oldest cities of Russia, and was Russia's first capital in the 9th century. Surrounded by churches and monasteries, it was a center for Orthodox spirituality as well as Russian architecture. Its medieval monuments and the 14th-century frescoes of Theophanes the Greek (Andrei Rublev's teacher) illustrate the development of its remarkable architecture and cultural creativity.

Full day sightseeing visit the Kremlin, situated on the left bank of the Volkhov River. The current fortress was built between 1484 and 1490 in the wake of Grand Prince Ivan III's conquest of the city in 1478. Continue to St Sophia Cathedral, the 38-metre high, five domed, stone cathedral. Then visit the Novgorod State Museum, one of the world's largest expositions of Russian icon painting, displaying around 260 works.



Grand Cascade Fountains, Peterhof



138396-Petrodvorets © xiquinhosilva via flickr.com/photos/xiquinho



Volkhov river and bridge (c) Quinn Dombrowski via flickr.com/photos/quinnanya



Garden of the Gods © Brandon via flickr.com/photos/bpprice

In the afternoon drive to the nearby Yuriev ('St George') Monastery. According to legend, the monastery was founded in the 11th century by Yaroslav the Wise and is one of Russia's oldest. The monastery was ravaged during Soviet rule. Five of its six churches were destroyed by 1928 and the monastery was closed in 1929. During World War II, the buildings were occupied by the German and Spanish armed forces, and were seriously damaged. In 1991 the monastery was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church, and parts of it have been renovated since then.

This evening, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner. **B L D**

Sun 16 Aug Novgorod – St Petersburg / Departure

Morning at leisure.

Afternoon transfer from Novgorod to St Petersburg. Drop-off at St Petersburg Airport by 3 pm for flights departing 5 pm or later. Drop off at St Petersburg River Port at 4 pm for embarkation on the 'Volga Dream I' for tour members joining 'Optional Cruise to Moscow'. **B**



Pskov, Kremlin. Two Towers © dr_tr via flickr.com/photos/dr_tr



Russia_3122 - Yuriev Monastery © Dennis Jarvis via flickr.com/photos/archer10

Tour Prices

Per person twin-share	AUD 6,950
Single supplement*	AUD 1,050
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	06 June 2015

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AGI510

Fitness level Above average

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline Qantas/Emirates

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located hotels with daily breakfast (**B**)
- Meals as per itinerary (**L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner). Wine with dinners.
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- A-reserve ticket for one performance
- Talks with Rosamund Bartlett
- Transfers on arrival and departure in St Petersburg
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)
- Russian visa

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

Your hotels

St Petersburg – Angleterre Hotel **★★★★**

Pskov – Heliopark Old Estate Hotel **★★★★+**

Novgorod – Park Inn **★★★★+**

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Optional Cruise to Moscow

Locally guided | 16 – 25 August 2015

Sun 16 Aug Embarkation / Depart St Petersburg

Afternoon embarkation on the 'Volga Dream I', your 'floating hotel' for the next six nights. Gather for the Captain's welcome reception and dinner as the ship departs at 7 pm for Moscow. **D**

Mon 17 Aug Svir River and Lake Ladoga

Be on deck as the ship navigates the Svir River toward Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest fresh water lake, past a shoreline dotted with graceful willows, alder trees and stately pines.

Step ashore for a brief visit to the village of Mandrogi to experience daily life in a quaint wooden village. **B L D**

Tue 18 Aug Kizhi

This afternoon explore the tiny, picturesque island of Kizhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega. The open-air Museum of Architecture includes the Church of the Transfiguration, a unique onion-domed masterpiece built without a single metal nail and resembling something out of a Russian fairy tale. **B L D**

Wed 19 Aug Goritsy

Early this morning cross Lake Belye, or the White Lake, formerly known as the 'Tsar's fishing grounds'. Arrive in the peaceful village of Goritsy to tour the fortress-like Kirillov-Belozersky Monastery with magnificent frescoes by one of the Russia's most renowned icon painters. Return to the ship for a late lunch. **B L D**

Thu 20 Aug Yaroslavl

This morning visit the oldest city on the Volga River, Yaroslavl, and a World Heritage site. In the Spassky Monastery see the Transfiguration of the Saviour, adorned with murals depicting St John's apocalyptic visions and the richly frescoed Church of St Elijah the Prophet. Attend a costumed dance performance at the Governor's Palace before reboarding the Volga Dream. **B L D**

Fri 21 Aug Uglich

Arrive this afternoon in Uglich, dating back to the 10th century. A walking tour of this Golden Ring city includes the Chapel of Dimitry, a 17th-century treasure built on the site where Ivan the

Terrible's 10-year old son met his death. Visit the Church of the Transfiguration, noted for its beautiful iconostasis, and attend a concert of choral music. **B L D**

Sat 22 Aug Arrive Moscow

Sail through the Moscow canal to arrive at the Moscow River Port.

Following disembarkation at 12 pm, proceed to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, visit the tranquil enclosure of the beautiful Novodevichy Convent and the nearby Novodevichy Cemetery where many famous Russian political and cultural figures are buried. Late afternoon arrival at your hotel in the city centre. **B L**

Sun 23 Aug Moscow

Enjoy a full day of art, beginning with a morning visit to the comprehensive collection of the Old Tretyakov Gallery, devoted to the history of Russian art, ranging from precious medieval icons to the Russian School of the late 19th century.

After lunch, visit the great Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collection of the Pushkin Museum. **B**

Mon 24 Aug Moscow

This morning you will visit the famous Kremlin. Its many treasures include the sumptuous interior of the Cathedral of the Assumption, the more intimate Cathedral of the Annunciation and the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great. A major attraction of the Kremlin is undoubtedly the Armoury Museum with its collection of Fabergé eggs and an astonishing array of glittering jewels, robes, thrones and carriages – a telling reminder of the pre-revolutionary opulence of the Romanov Dynasty.

After lunch explore Red Square, GUM Department store and the Kitay Gorod. **B L**

Tue 25 Aug Depart Moscow

Tour arrangements conclude with a transfer to Moscow Airport. **B**

IMPORTANT: This cruise / tour is NOT escorted by Rosamund Bartlett and is 'locally guided' by the experienced staff on board the Volga Dream I and by our qualified local guide in Moscow.



Volga Dream I

One of the smallest vessels on the Russian Waterways, catering for only 100 guests, Volga Dream I offers a more intimate cruise experience and highly personalised service.

All cabins and staterooms have an en-suite bathroom with separate shower, air conditioning, mini-bar, safe, satellite TV, access to hi-speed satellite Wi-Fi and many other facilities.

Starting with the early morning aroma of freshly baked bread, you will enjoy a gourmet dining experience of Russian and European dishes, with complementary wine and soft drinks with all on board lunches and dinners.

Shore excursions are conducted by carefully selected guides with a maximum group size of 25 people. A diverse range of on board activities offers a fascinating insight into Russian culture. Activities include cooking demonstrations, Russian language lessons, documentary films, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov piano concerts, matrioshka painting classes, Russian costumed dinner with vodka testing and many other activities.

For further information, visit www.volgadream.com



Volga Dream I



Volga Dream Cruise

Tour Prices

Volga Dream I	Double / Twin	Single*
Standard Cabin	AUD 3,730	AUD 5,460
Superior Stateroom	AUD 4,510	AUD 6,680
Deluxe Stateroom Promenade Twin only	AUD 4,980	AUD 7,440
Deluxe Stateroom Sundeck Double only	AUD 5,140	AUD 7,690

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Deposit

At time of booking:	10%
12 February 2015	30%
06 June 2015	Balance

Tour code

AG1510B

Fitness level

Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline

Qantas/Emirates

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- 6 night cruise St Petersburg – Moscow on Volga Dream I in your choice of cabin or stateroom type
- 3 nights' accommodation in a centrally located hotel in Moscow with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Wine with meals.
- Comprehensive sightseeing including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- Transfer on departure in Moscow
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, minibar etc.)
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

Your hotel

Moscow – Metropol★★★★+

NB. Hotel of a similar standard may be substituted

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

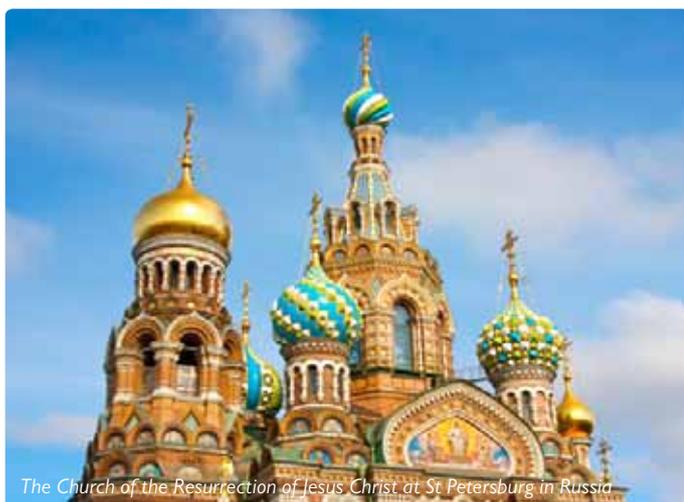
- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



The Church of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at St Petersburg in Russia



Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood interior



R
Renaissance
Tours

1300 727 095 (AU)
0800 403 621 (NZ)
call (02) 9299 5801
fax (02) 9299 5805
email info@renaissancetours.com.au
visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

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Your travel agent is